

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
RECREATION AND PARKS
GUIDELINES FOR HIDING A CACHE

1. You must receive approval from St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks (R&P) prior to placing a cache in a County Park. To obtain approval, you must submit the completed Cache Application Form. In most cases, you will be advised of a decision within three (3) business days.
2. In cases where a cache is not approved, R&P will recommend a more appropriate location for placement.
3. A transparent container is required. DO NOT use PVC pipe, ammo cans or any other military-looking container that may cause alarm should an unsuspecting person happen upon the cache.
4. DO NOT include any of the following in the cache: food (animals chew through caches); explosives or ammo; knives; drugs or alcohol; trash (which includes broken toys); and commercial or religious brochures.
5. DO NOT dig any holes or disturb the surrounding environment. DO NOT attach caches to live trees or structures of any kind.
6. DO NOT place your cache in plain view. Attempt to conceal the cache to minimize the chances that a non-participant will spot it, which could lead to worry, theft or vandalism. Try to hide the cache off the beaten path by at least a few yards to provide the finder some measure of privacy to sign the log without arousing undue alarm.
7. Clearly mark the container with the appropriate identification, such as Geocaching.com and the name of the cache. Place a stash note inside explaining the sport to any non-participants who may discover the cache.
8. Think SAFETY when hiding and/or seeking a cache. Use common sense!
9. As a cache seeker or cache owner, you must abide by park hours and all other rules and regulations. Carry documentation such as the cache detail sheet, so that you can explain your activity to anyone who may ask.